

NEW ORLEANS

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Anyone Interested in Latin America?

CPYRGHT

Editorial from the Minneapolis Tribune

Is anyone really interested in Latin America?

We all pay lip service to the Good Neighbor idea, but do U. S. citizens really believe what happens there is important for us?

We ask ourselves that question often as we try to interest readers in events south of the Rio Grande. We ask it again in connection with the fantastic mystery whose known details have been related. Consider these facts:

A distinguished scholar vanishes from Columbia university, presumably kidnapped, presumed dead. He had written a book strongly critical of the Dominican Republic's "strong man," Trujillo.

A U. S. citizen who may have been innocently involved in the affair is dead—in the Dominican Republic. He may have known too much.

Another U. S. citizen — former FBI

agent and CIA lawyer is convicted of serving illegally as Trujillo's agent. He had some connections or involvement with the two men cited above.

Here, virtually on our doorstep, Trujillo has fashioned one of the most brutal, most absolute tyrannies in the world. He has depended on powerful U. S. friends to keep him out of trouble with Washington. But the Galindez-Murphy mystery has exposed the illegal operations of Trujillo's agents and secret police in the United States for all of us to see.

From how many governments would we tolerate such activities? We have given this regime six million dollars in aid.

Trujillo is our ally. He is anti-Communist. He votes our way in the United Nations. But is he part of what we mean when we talk of "the free world?"

Anyone interested in Latin America?